

Current Economic Programs Printed Survey Results: by the Manufacturing/Trade Inventory/Sales Statistics Users Respondent Base

U.S. Census Bureau
Current Economic Statistics User Survey

OMB CQM-26 (Rev.5/5/98)

I. DATA CONTENT

Your answers identifying the survey data you use will help us understand our users' patterns of data use.

1. Which Current Economic Statistics from the Census Bureau do you use? (Mark all that apply.)

(1) Monthly

0.3%;	1	None
67.2%;	203	Retail Sales
61.9%;	187	Wholesale Trade
100.0%;	302	Manufacturing/Trade Inventory/Sales
62.6%;	189	Housing Starts
50.7%;	153	Building Permits
49.7%;	150	New Home Sales
44.0%;	133	Value of New Construction Put in Place
30.8%;	93	Housing Completions
23.5%;	71	Expenditures for Residential Improvements
32.8%;	99	New Residential Construction
14.9%;	45	New Mobile Home Placements
50.7%;	153	Monthly Imports and Exports
56.0%;	169	Current Industrial Reports
67.9%;	205	Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, Orders

Replies 302; Forms 302

(2) Quarterly

55.4%;	102	Quarterly Financial Report
82.1%;	151	Current Industrial Reports
4.3%;	8	Federal Assistance Awards Data System
13.6%;	25	Quarterly Tax Survey
6.0%;	11	Quarterly Public Employee Retirement

Replies 184; Forms 302

(3) Annual

55.3%;	145	Annual Retail Trade
53.1%;	139	Annual (Wholesale) Trade
23.3%;	61	Annual Survey of Communications
25.6%;	67	Transportation Annual Survey
27.5%;	72	Service Annual Survey
49.2%;	129	County Business Patterns

26.3%;	69	ZIP Code Business Patterns
46.2%;	121	Statistics of U.S. Businesses
26.3%;	69	Characteristics of New Housing
34.0%;	89	Annual Building Permits
21.4%;	56	New Residential Construction in Selected Metropolitan Areas
35.5%;	93	Annual Capital Expenditures
76.3%;	200	Annual Survey of Manufactures
62.2%;	163	Current Industrial Reports
21.8%;	57	Research and Development Survey
33.2%;	87	Plant Capacity Utilization
9.2%;	24	Education Finance Survey
11.5%;	30	State Tax Collection Survey
6.1%;	16	Annual Public Employee Retirement
11.1%;	29	Annual Survey of Public Employment
10.7%;	28	Consolidated Federal Funds Report
18.3%;	48	State Government Finances
46.9%;	123	Annual Imports and Exports

Replies 262; Forms 302

II. DATA DELIVERY

The Census Bureau is considering use of the Internet as the primary method of data delivery. By completing the following questions, you will help us retain the most essential delivery formats and design the best possible data delivery service.

(4) 2. How do you receive current economic data now? (Mark all that apply.)

85.0%;	255	Printed Publications	15.0%;	45	FAX
76.3%;	229	World Wide Web (Internet)	14.7%;	44	Direct (E-mail) delivery
30.0%;	90	CD-ROMs	1.7%;	5	Regular mail
18.0%;	54	Diskettes	9.3%;	28	Other

Replies 300; Forms 302

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- EBB (of Stat-USA) Phone calls
 - visit to Census release library and requests to commerce library.
 - Newspaper
 - Economic Bulletin Board
 - from others in the organization we use ftp site extensively.
 - Would prefer receiving printed schedules to let me know what data is available via internet.
 - News media
 - Commerce Department Economic Bulletin Board
 - Electronic "Bulletin Boards"
 - TAPE 1/2
 - Check values by telephone
 - also use microfiche in some cases.
 - time-share vendor (private)
 - Bulletin Board Commerce Dept.
 - Economic Bulletin Board-Commerce Dept.
 - hard copy computer run
 - Analytics
 - News Services-Market News.
 - Internet, ProNet
 - sec,Secondary Vendor (R
 - Newswires
 - Fax from Japanese media

- Stat-USA
- Receive nothing now-Provide as you require by law
- STAT-Usa Bulletin Board
- Overnight Delivery of NIA data
- FTP
- Subscribe to America Statistic Index on Microfiche
- STAT-USA+WEFA Group

(5) 3. What format do you PREFER when downloading data for further manipulation? (Mark all that apply.)

66.8%;	191	Spreadsheet (e.g., wkl, xls, etc...)
25.9%;	74	Database (e.g., dbf, mdb, etc...)
23.4%;	67	ASCII delimited
18.5%;	53	ASCII flat files
16.8%;	48	Retrieve from print or screen and enter manually
15.7%;	45	Do not manipulate data
4.2%;	12	Other

Replies 286; Forms 302

- pdf format
- Sas data sets
- download from www.Census.gov
- Change to landscape small font 9
- Charts and Trends
- to be determined
- Text files: txt. or PRN
- Excel
- SAS. SD2
- Word Document
- Anything readable

4. What capabilities do you want on the Census Internet site? (For each line, indicate the degree of your preferences, from 5 [high] to 1 [low].)

(6) a. Direct (E-mail) delivery:

50.2%;	131	5	15.3%;	40	3	9.2%;	24	1
13.8%;	36	4	8.0%;	21	2	3.4%;	9	Don't know

Replies 261; Forms 302

(7) b. E-mail notification:

45.3%;	116	5	19.1%;	49	3	7.8%;	20	1
16.4%;	42	4	7.4%;	19	2	3.9%;	10	Don't know

Replies 256; Forms 302

(8) c. Retrieve/display to screen:

51.0%;	128	5	16.3%;	41	3	6.4%;	16	1
19.5%;	49	4	2.4%;	6	2	4.4%;	11	Don't know

Replies 251; Forms 302

(9) d. Search:									
72.7%;		197	5	11.1%;		30	3	1.5%;	
13.3%;		36	4	1.1%;		3	2	0.4%;	
								4 1	
								1 Don't know	
Replies 271; Forms 302									
(10) e. Download complete data sets:									
66.5%;		179	5	10.8%;		29	3	2.6%;	
12.3%;		33	4	6.3%;		17	2	1.5%;	
								7 1	
								4 Don't know	
Replies 269; Forms 302									
(11) f. Download selected data:									
77.5%;		207	5	5.6%;		15	3	1.5%;	
10.9%;		29	4	3.4%;		9	2	1.1%;	
								4 1	
								3 Don't know	
Replies 267; Forms 302									
(12) g. Software help/tutorials:									
22.2%;		54	5	27.6%;		67	3	11.5%;	
17.7%;		43	4	17.3%;		42	2	3.7%;	
								28 1	
								9 Don't know	
Replies 243; Forms 302									
(13) h. Publication-quality printing:									
34.1%;		86	5	20.6%;		52	3	13.9%;	
16.7%;		42	4	13.1%;		33	2	1.6%;	
								35 1	
								4 Don't know	
Replies 252; Forms 302									
(14) i. Charts and graphs:									
30.6%;		79	5	18.6%;		48	3	16.3%;	
18.6%;		48	4	13.2%;		34	2	2.7%;	
								42 1	
								7 Don't know	
Replies 258; Forms 302									
(15) j. Geographic maps:									
26.7%;		66	5	18.2%;		45	3	20.2%;	
16.6%;		41	4	13.4%;		33	2	4.9%;	
								50 1	
								12 Don't know	
Replies 247; Forms 302									
(16) k. Other, please specify:									
70.0%;		14 electronic bulletin board				30.0%;		6 Other	
Replies 20; Forms 302									

- Publications like QFR to be in spreadsheet format or mdb for easy data manipulation after downloading.
- Structure and specialists available to help researchers find data.
- greater depth of detail
- Internet site very important to receive data from.
- electronic
- Update full report at release time

(17) I. Electronic Bulletin Board (To collect write-ins)

0.0%;	0	5	0.0%;	0	3	0.0%;	0	1
0.0%;	0	4	0.0%;	0	2	0.0%;	0	Don't know

Replies 0; Forms 302

III. DATA USAGE

Your answers describing how you use the data will help us design the most effective Current Economic Statistics retrieval tool.

(18) 5. Do you combine/compare/merge data from more than one source listed in Question 1?

27.9%;	79	No	72.1%;	204	Yes
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Replies 283; Forms 302

(19) 6. What time periods do you consider when using these data? (Mark X all that apply.)

65.3%;	190	trends up to 5 years	44.0%;	128	latest 1 or 2 periods
62.5%;	182	5+ years	0.0%;	0	Other
44.7%;	130	trends up to 1 year			

Replies 291; Forms 302

(20) 7. How do you use the data? (Mark all that apply.)

51.4%;	147	Create value-added products/services
37.1%;	106	Perform patron/client inquiries
30.4%;	87	Inform marketing decisions
23.8%;	68	Inform investment decisions
20.6%;	59	Republish in newspaper/journal
18.9%;	54	Store reports/printouts for archival purposes
7.0%;	20	Locate new sites
0.3%;	1	Other

Replies 286; Forms 302

- Store data in database.
-

(21) 8. What explanatory information do you consult when using these data? (Mark all that apply.)

75.0%;	210	Definition of terms
57.9%;	162	Narrative text describing survey results
48.9%;	137	Sampling and estimation methodology
41.1%;	115	Survey design

10.0%; 28 None
2.5%; 7 Other

Replies 280; Forms 302

- Explanations of data changes/revisions
 - frequency and availability
 - short trend summary is extremely helpful-where possible.
 - Direct contact with Census analysts
 - Comparisons to earlier surveys and/or similar data from other agencies--e.g. census to BEA in one estimates.
 - AD HOC
 - Stat Conf. Level re: validity/reliability
-

(22) 9. Do you have any pressing data or information needs that are not currently being met?

- You should have a central source for sales for all SIC codes. The data could be more timely.
- Estimate of sales from space-based telecommunications.
- We are very much interested in unadjusted counterparts of tables 7 & 8 of the FT900 release being made available on internet on the day of release. Publications like QFR also need to be made available in spreadsheet or mdb for us to further manipulate data.
- No. Increasingly more and more data sets are becoming available electronically-which makes our work easier by eliminating manual inputting of data.
- Non-residential building permit data.
- Yes--Need more timely and more defined (i.e. 4-digit SIC code) SUB-NATIONAL data.
- Monthly Retail Sales is no longer in print-- it is time consuming to get it off the internet because of the download time. It's a waste of valuable research time.
- Retail Trade Monthly - Regional Data Survey - Blue Pages, Building Permits - Non-Resident & Additions.
- Print publications no longer available, yet there is no notice that the print publication will no longer exist. Impossible to find the exact publication on the Internet so clients can compare and update printed data. Current information available but how long will older information remain available?
- Retail sales for Central Business Districts; zip code retail sales, manufacturers, wholesale, etc; zip code housing data including rent and home prices; SIC business for zip codes.
- No.
- No.
- R & D expenditures by industry (2 & 3 - digit codes) capital expenditures by industry (2 & 3 - digit codes)
- If I request "personal income 1989-1992 monthly", the database would show me what I requested data.
- Capital Outlays Quarterly By Industry
- Need updated 1990 Census Data.
- need 6-digit information
- Information on nonresidential construction.
- "807" Production-sharing trade at the 2-digit SIC level showing total U.S. import value and the value of U.S. components sent offshore for assembly.
- Printing in ASCII, converted to 6.1. That gives complete graph - 15 columns.
- Need more monthly physical output data for manufacturing.
- Foreign trade - exports & imports - by 4-digit (data that had been available in "Trades Employment") - without SIC (& soon NAIC), cannot compare trade with domestic activity.
- Imports and Exports by SIC code; 3 or 4 digit. Move industry detail in M3 report.
- Monthly retail sales were previously available by U.S. region! We need this!
- No.
- More specific value/number of shipments for manufacturing SICs
- MCD Business Patterns, Massachusetts is doing away with county government, MCD income estimates.
- Timely release of data in an easy-to-access format (ie: XLS, 123, etc.) with revisions and option of

- pulling complete time series.
- Non-residential building permits--number by type of building.
- The availability of Residential and Commercial Building Permit Data.
- We need all stats available for the Jewelry Industry especially by geographic region.
- Internet combustion engine parts--pistons, rings, pins, sleeves--data on units produced/price.
- I'd love to see employment data by SIC based on place of residence. Also wish for reconciliation between RIMS, SIC, & NAICS.
- Int'l trade data on internet are inadequate. Only press releases are there. When data are revised, if data are not in the press release, there is no way to get the revisions (ex: monthly data from exhibits 6&7 of FT900).
- Monthly historical trade data.
- Number of Mobile Homes & Value of, by state, on a monthly basis. (Currently only published annually) -- Also, by county, if possible.
- No.
- More timely data.
- Non-residential building permits data nad value of new non-residential construction part in place.
- Monthly trade data based on export location.
- Keeping ____ disaggregated data sets ____ possible that are consistent, and therefore directly comparable is very helpful.
- 1) NAICS to harmonized code concordance. 2) Timely plant capacity utilization at greatest detail level possible. 3) Windows version import data/monthly annual easy to use historical with full detail. 4) New Home sales (without land).
- MSA-level data and economic projections. New projections of pollution control expenditures (PACE study)
- Current input-output reports; 5 yrs. is too old!
- YES! Bring back non-residential state/local permits authorized! This was a severe loss for interpreting local economic trends. Also, more geographic detail, more frequently.
- Some data are not historical enough. Most of the time, I need data as far back as 20-30 years ago.
- Seasonal Population - estimates. More information on affordable housing-market.
- State, county & local permit date for nonresidential construction. Use to get this.
- BLS has great site. Well organized. Need to make it easy to find seasonal factors and benchwork.
- Organic Chemicals Annual was very useful before it was discontinued. We would like annual production, consumption figures made available again.
- current retail sales
- Yes. I have been looking for cost dat for pollution data for different pollutants by categories for the last years from 1993 +, but could not.
- More detailed annual (quarterly) production data on high technologies (electronics).
- I need quarter-by-quarter growth figures in areas such as sales, inventories, GOP, construction,etc.
- Regional retail sales (metropolitan area) monthly non-residential building permits by metropolitan area monthly.
- Pollution abatement expenditures by SIC
- Commercial & industrial building permit activity!
- Business starts by SIC at the County level.
- We would also like to receive retail sales. wholesale trades, and manufacturing/trade inventory that if we can get it off of the web, that is fine.
- The 1997 Census is not out yet.
- Want monthly retail trade by state & MSA back.
- 1). Inventory by stage for M3 categories. 2). Separation of electronic components into semiconductors and other.
- Yes, Non-residential permits and regional retail sales.
- More extensive time series!
- Using CPS-online. The current terret use does not allow for cross-tabs and sub-group data collection.
- Need more detailed annual data for 6 digit SIC codes
- Place and regional economic data sets in relation to population/race trends.
- Geographic data by product class, especially in county business patterns. Totals at the 4-digit industry level aren't detailed enough.

- Make data reports easier to print off of the web.
- Move capital expenditure data--more frequent, more detailed
- Service Data on an manual/quarterly/monthly basis by 2,3, & 4-digit SIC!
- Website is extremely difficult to navigate.
- Would like to see MA33L on quarterly basis.
- Crime--not all areas of the U.S. participate in their state uniform crime reports program, so it becomes difficult to make informed decisions.
- Need detailed PPI data.
- Elimination of Group II sales data and problems
- Economic data for lower half and upper half of the work force.
- Median income and poverty tables are not in spreadsheet form (they one were).
- Would like to see reinstitution of non-residential permit statistics.
- Imports and exports by 4-digit SIC. Very important--in print. Publication form--quarterly.
- We would like to see more economic data and analyses at the state & MSA level.
- An explanation of why government policy has abandoned the domestic manufacturing/industrial base upon which the nation's self-sufficiency has rested.
- Quarterly data, analyzed growth rates for all statistics. Currently, only some of the data is shown as a quarterly growth rate analyzed.
- More Detailed Segmenting
- MSA retail sales
- Monthly service sector sales counterpart data set to retail, wholesale, and manufacturing shipments.
- The more detailed (down to specific product line) the better.
- The more history, the better.
- Commercial, Industrial, and other non-residential construction put-in-place!
- Immediate posting of data revisions when significant revisions are undertaken.
- Information on type of procurement contracts by NASA and DOD to the space industry.
- We have a need for long historical time series and for long-term forecasts.
- Far better data on service sector; tons of coverage. Need data on enterprises as well as establishments.
- Commercial Building Permits County level on a timely basis.
- As a foreign academic library, we are concerned about cost of access.
- Report on production of industrial fabrics
- Very disappointed that non-residential building permit data is no longer being tracked--our models rely on this!

IV. INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION ISSUES

We will soon begin restructuring the Current Economic Surveys based on the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Your answers will help us ensure that these surveys continue to provide the economic information needed by markets, policy makers, and business people. For more information on NAICS, see the Bureau's web site: <http://www.census.gov/NAICS>.

(24) 10. At what levels of detail do you MOST FREQUENTLY USE industry data classified by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)? (Mark all that apply.)

68.1%;	192	4-digit industries (or maximum detail I can get)
40.4%;	114	3-digit industry groups
39.7%;	112	Sector totals (SIC division); e.g., Manufacturing or Retail Trade
38.3%;	108	2-digit major groups
8.5%;	24	NA (don't use SIC-based data)
3.9%;	11	Other

Replies 282; Forms 302

- 6 TO 10 digit
- digit SIC product codes
- HS

- NAICS, Duns' Product Codes
- 7-digit in some cases
- more detail needed
- Greater detail when available
- The greatest level available--CIR level. Product level.
- Would like to have 6 or 7 digit SIC
- Whatever you require by law
- D & B's 2+2 system 8 digits

(25) 11. Were you aware that the SIC system is being replaced by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)?

20.6%; 59 I was unaware of this
 33.8%; 97 I am partially aware, but lack details
 45.6%; 131 I am aware and understand some implications

Replies 287; Forms 302

12. Would you like to receive more information about NAICS?

(26) Yes, please send me - (Mark all that apply)

88.2%;	179	A brochure that explains NAICS	32.0%;	65	Conference announcements
66.5%;	135	NAICS implementation plans	6.9%;	14	Other

Replies 203; Forms 302

- Comparison-SIC VS. NAICS Similar to when SIC definitions change.
 - Send info on NAICS comparability with existing SIC data.
 - Disk that has SIC/NAICS Conversions
 - H.S. Concordances
 - The reference book of classifications
 - Contacted by local information office for Bureau.
 - A manual and numerical list
 - Definitions of NAICS codes.
 - I am awaiting CD-ROM!
 - We bought the big NAICS book earlier this year--has it been updated?
 - Already know
 - Booklet with new codes
-

(27) No Thanks -

62.9%; 56 I will check the Census Bureau's web site (www.census.gov/naics)
 37.1%; 33 I don't need more information about NAICS

Replies 89; Forms 302

V. USER PROFILE

Please tell us about yourself so we may serve you better.

(28) 13. Type of organization.

48.5%;	141	Business	4.1%;	12	Individual
19.2%;	56	Government	3.1%;	9	Media
13.1%;	38	Academic/Research	0.7%;	2	Library
8.2%;	24	Association	3.1%;	9	Other

Replies 291; Forms 302

- Information and consulting firm
- Quasi-Gov't
- Consulting
- Economics Consulting
- Economic Development
- Labor Union
- Library (University
- Corp. Library
- non-profit trade promotion

(29) 14. Do you work in your organization's library?

28.5%;	82	Yes	71.5%;	206	No
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Replies 288; Forms 302

(30) 15. What is your affiliation with the Census Bureau?

80.1%;	230	None	0.7%;	2	Affiliate Data Center
5.2%;	15	State Data Center	9.1%;	26	Other
4.9%;	14	Business/Industry Data Center			

Replies 287; Forms 302

- Affiliate of the State Data Center
- Philadelphia Regional Office
- user of Census data
- Need statistical info on Jewelry Industry.
- Special Sworn Employee
- Associate Stat Data Center
- Federal User
- Cooperator in disseminating permits authorized data
- Census Liason
- U.S. DOC-ITA
- Research
- Provider of Business Data to the Census Bureau
- Affiliate Agency
- Government
- Depository
- BEA Statistical Agency (DOC)
- Fund the CIR-MA35N
- State Data Center Affiliate
- DOC Staff
- Economist
- Data use.
- GPO Depository
- Local Census Affiliate
- Associate Data Center
- Affiliate
- Federal Depository Library

(35) 20. May we contact you to follow up on this questionnaire?

77.5%; 217 Yes

22.5%; 63 No

Replies 280; Forms 302

(36) Question 21. Remarks:

- You should include questions on technology usage in your census questions (in the 10 year census).
- It would be nice to have all reports available in spreadsheets format. For any publication reports that contain large tables and data, mdb file format would be an ideal too.
- We greatly appreciate this survey. I'd like to stress one major concern we have: As you move toward complete Internet delivery of data-please continue to publish "hard copies" of the economic reports for us to compare as backup. We have noticed that occasionally there are errors in Electronic Bulletin Board and Internet files--so we rely on the hard copy as backup. We use it as a safeguard. Thank you and feel free to contact me at your convenience.
- The computerized data is fine when know exactly which dat you want. It is not so good when you want to know what is available and related information; in this case the printed publication e.g. censu of Manufactures, is far superior.
- The library relies heavily on Census data bu twe have a need for the information in both printed and downloadable (manipulable) formats. The library would purchase both the printed format as well as subscribe to the census website.
- I have never dealt with a government organization as polite, knoledgeable, helpful & responsive as I have from all the people at the Census Bureau (in the current Industrial report area).
- I've been trying to get Census data since 1991. I've use NTDB CD-ROM, StatUSA CD and now the Internet site. As soon as I learn the system really well-you change it. After I loaded the StatUSA CD--The NTDB CD would not work. We need older figures going back to the 1980's. It's impossible to run NTDP, then StatUSA on the smae PC. I really hate the StatUSA CD.
- 1). It is important to be able to retreive data in easy to use formats (spreadsheet or ascii)- "pdf" formats are convenient to print, but difficult to use. 2). Please see question 9. 3). We are concerned about the discontinuity in time series data that will occur with NAICs. The 1987 SIC change was a significant problem-NAICS will likely be much worse. Any help from Census (bridges, publication of data in both classifications) would be a great help to data users.
- The Bureau of the Census has done a great job with it's web sites. Wth the exception of some unpublished data, everything is available through the internet. The unpublished data is received by direct e-mail.
- In our work with furniture manufacturers and retailers we consistently need breakdowns of mrgrs. shipments by product classification (ie. bedroom) on a more timely basis & retail sales at a smaller geographic level.
- A published paper version should always be made available for purchase to the public. Information being available on the internet is nice, yet it is a completely different animal than having a hard copy version of the information. An example: I can receive my new off the internet, but I still prefer to get my newspaper in the morning for reading at my leisure away from a computer.
- When is 1997 Census to be available? Please keep as much of the data in print as possible-- Thanks!
- Census bureau data is always helpful--the data you provide enhances our publication and enables readers to make informal business decisions.
- Documents need to more clearly state whom to contact for follow-up information.
- Thanks for asking!
- Over the past several months, I have begun to utilize the U.S. Census Bureau's web site, specifically the economic briefing room. I use this information in conjunction witht he Kiplinger letter to keep up with marketing anyalysts. Having the information on the web makes it very easy to access. Thanks!
- Thank you for your great service!
- Whenever I have used statistics & required assitance I have found the staff both friendly & efficient. I remain very impressed with your web site & service provided.

- The efforts to provide electronic format data are a vast improvement over paper/hard copy publications. They have increased the accuracy and utility of the data sets.
- The level of detail varies depending on the type of data requested. Mostly county-level data is used because this is what is available.

Although the technology of the internet is available to tie up my phone line browsing for information to print out is very time consuming, whereas a printed report is much easier to access & reference. Not all government entities have the capacity to keep pace with new, faster, computer hardware & software.

- Census data has proven invaluable to in-depth country comparisons of productivity in sectors extremely valuable organization.

Please keep going with the detailed data, comparable time series (IS NAICS comparable?) and aggregate numbers.

- --Strongly support new PACE (Pollution Abatement and Control Expenditures) studies

--New BEA projections are needed (GSP, MSA-level, etc).

- We use business/commercial statistics when writing market reports. We are not regular users of any of the Census publications, but value them highly in our individual case work.
- Keep up the good work--

1). Does table 3=CPI-U?
on monthly reports?

- Being able to download from the web site has generally worked very well for us. The only troublesome aspect is that the page numbers of the PDF documents differ from the page numbers in their table of contents (e.g. - printing page 18 gets you page 12 of the document).

A big "thank you" to the Census specialists who have been most helpful and polite when we've called with questions.

- We serve a varied clientele (academic, business, government, and private citizens) and work across many subject. Census data are absolutely vital to us. Our biggest need is for more geographic area detail more frequently (state, county, place, if possible). Users often do not understand the 5 yr. gaps and lag time for the major Economic Surveys that offer such detail, much less the 10 yr. decennial cycle. The internet is a great help in speeding "publication", but we find access is not yet universal. We still download and print entire documents for guide reference and historical purposes. I am concerned about just how long the electronic media will remain accurate and usable as technology changes. How will the Bureau deal with these problems?
- Stat-USA is an extremely useful tool for retrieving data. I would like to see more files in spreadsheet format and the ability to download particular segments.
- Please contact ASAP: Bob Davidson, Gov't Information Service Section Palm Beach county Library System Service

3650 SUMMIT BLVD. 33406
(561) 233-2600, ext. 164
email Robert ID@PB.SEFLIN.ORG

- Great idea! Thanks for asking.
- Good job on the web site.
- I believe this survey contains a lot of information to be used.
- Respondent provided voluminous, illegible comments throughout that could not be deciphered to record.
- PDF files are big and we have to retype the data for analysis. Having raw or spreadsheet/database data would save us much time. BLS's web site is a good one to study.
- M3 data for office and computer appears to be overly strong, probably because software is being counted instead of just hardware.
- We look forward to working with you on the upcoming Census.
- Tables which have no column headings and which one must consult separate documents are highly

- confusing.
- I always use your data for the economic releases. My major concerns are: timeliness of data availability on web and being able to print the data from the web without having to reformat printing fonts. I also to the revisions when they come out, but often the location and structure of the revisions is confusing.
- Current setup on the web is extremely frustratingly for someone trying to print/download data and reports

-> Make .XLS files available with lots of historical data.

___ Use .PDF filrds for pasting your releases -Having to flow ascii into a word processor and reformat is not the way to go. Email sub would be helpful

- I appreciate receiving this survey.
 - We're still waiting for an order blank so we can order the 1997 Economic Census.
 - We are in the site selection/economic development function. Census data is absolutely crucial to our function, especially the ability to compare areas.
 - We have developed "Productivity Enhancement and Control (Peacon) Plan." This plan will solve 20 major economic problems of the U.S. and provide about \$10,000 to all wage earners earning up to \$200,000. It will double the minimum wage, reduce unemployment to 2% reduce poverty to 2% and provide health care benefits and solve other economic problems. Over 98% of the work force will benefit at the the cost of upper 2%, whose income will be reduced considerably.
 - Please update my address in your records. Thanks!
 - Most interested in current industrial reports (MA36H) regarding electronic motors (product codes 3621215 - 3621219, 322122-362112P), and imports/exports of the same (ref: HTS 850 etc.)
- Thanks for asking?

P.S. Also interested in small single phase motors (2-digit) 362111A--362123F

- We love the Census Bureau! Clear publications indices and ease of search engines on the Internet site are very important to us. Also, choice of how to download data is good, not all users need or can use spreadsheet software.
- Small Businesses, with fewer people these days are buried with government paperwork.
- Keep up the good work. I appreciate this survey.
- More documentation and instructions for obtaining data from gohper directories would be helpful.
- Sorry this is late I switched firms and lost the letter.
- I appreciate the value of your service! Educators use information for social profit.
- prefer e-mail
- Surveys are informative; Good source for benchmarking; Would like to see more details on industries.
- The Website can be quite cumbersome to search sometimes.
- Many of your monthly data crimes current, per month of 2 months ago but not year ago. I would be useful to have year ago and /or a full updated file with historical data. For example: new orders, inventories, etc.
- It was a mistake to exclude mobile home permits from your residential permits totals, and a bigger mistake to exclude the non-residential permits.
- I like the fact that the Census Bureau Produces many of is documents in the .pdf format, these are easy to print, bind and archive in our library. However, what is even more important to our firm is the ability to manipulate the data, and easily bring it into a data base or spreadsheet. If I had to choose I would prefer the raw data to the printable format.

I might use more of the data listed in question now that I know it exists.

- Glad more of your publications are being made available on the Intenet! Suggestion for format of employment data-group by years first, then industry. Is there some alternative for obtaining non-residential building permits.

Figure 1: